

CD Video

Free with **WHAT VIDEO**

magazine



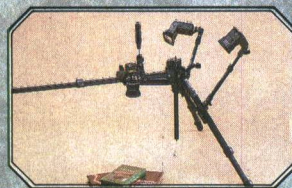
THE FUTURE
OF SOUND
AND VISION?

THE SYSTEM ● THE PLAYERS ● THE DISCS

◆ THE NEW SLIK 88 ◆ BLACK DIAMOND



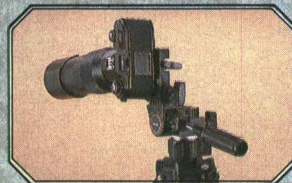
How to put your lens and flashgun out on a limb ...



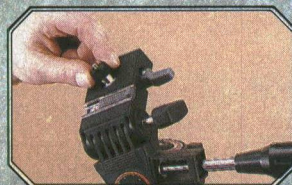
• COPYING FACILITY



• ULTRA-LOW ANGLES



• NEW CAMERA BACK SUPPORT



• QUICK RELEASE BUSH



• FLASHGUN EXTENSIONS
IDEAL FOR BOUNCE

Just a passing glance at the tripod below is enough to realise it's something special.

The elegant smooth black lines and highly versatile lens and flashgun extensions, are only a part of the step forward for the famous SLIK 88 (Britain's top selling tripod for the last six years). A step forward in the form of the New SLIK 88 Black Diamond. Advanced design techniques combined with the tried and tested features, has formed the New SLIK 88 Black Diamond, not merely into a tripod for your camera, more a comprehensive support system for all your photographic equipment.

◆ NEW DESIGN FEATURES ◆

Two section Flashgun Extensions (optional extras) fit neatly onto the legs. Ball joint systems in the hot-shoe and base offer maximum movement; ideal for creating lighting of any subject. Lanyard for extra security.

Two section Lens Support Extension (optional extras), offers support for long barrel lenses, whilst maintaining complete control over the focusing system. The lens is gripped by a heavy duty rubber belt. The ball joint system offers complete manoeuvrability.

◆ IMPROVED DESIGN FEATURES ◆

The New SLIK 88 Black Diamond features improved design such as quick release leg clamps on the bracing bars offering smooth operation when adjusting the legs individually.

The camera platform offers extreme security for long barrel lenses when taking vertical shots (ie: when the camera is on its side). The New Camera Back Support prevents the camera suddenly tilting downwards due to the front heavy weight of a telephoto lens.

◆ ORIGINAL DESIGN FEATURES ◆

Three way pan and tilt head for precise angles. Fold away crank handle for rapid height adjustment. Quick release leg clamps adjust the tripod height in seconds. A quick release camera post allows instant release of camera from platform. Square tube legs add strength without extra weight giving many years use under all conditions. Panoramic Scale for various focal length lenses. Built-in spirit level. Camera Bush on leg for ultra-low angles. Spiked or rubber feet. Height closed 2'2" (660 mm). Fully extended 5'3½" (1.615 mm).

The New SLIK 88 Black Diamond offers versatility, stability and lightweight without loss of height at a reasonable price. It's the safest place for your camera.

**AICO
INTERNATIONAL**

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FARADAY ROAD, NEWBURY,
BERKSHIRE RG13 2AD

THE NEW SLIK 88 BLACK DIAMOND

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CD Video

magazine

FREE with WHAT VIDEO

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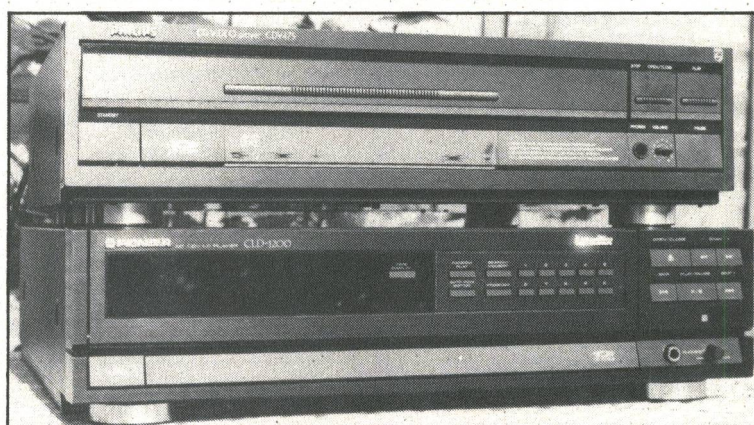
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 CDV stack system!
 Philips and Pioneer
 machines on test
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● Left: All the latest
 software releases
 (pp20-23)



£350 clip player out soon

PHILIPS' SECOND CD Video machine, on sale shortly, will be the 360mm-wide midi £349 CD-185 'clip' player.

It will play 5in. video clip discs, standard CDs and 3in. CD singles (without an adaptor).

Like the bigger CDV-475, it's a 16-bit/x4 oversampling deck with full-function remote controller, programmable 20-track memory and gold-plated audio and digital phono outputs — the latter for connection to a high performance digital/analogue converter — with both Scart and phono video output sockets.

It also features skip track selection (backwards or forwards), continuous repeat, two headphone sockets and a 'soft-tone' multi-function display.

Yamaha demos CDV

APART FROM Philips and Pioneer, the only other company to enthusiastically preview CD Video hardware is Yamaha.

It's demonstrated commitment to the system by touting its CDV-1000 player up and down the country, proudly re-running selected sequences from a digital sound LaserVision pressing of *Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom* to anyone who professed an interest.

The catch is, of course, that the CDV-1000 is a Japanese NTSC model. The company has no PAL standard player to demonstrate yet — and no launch date for equipment in the UK.

Still, the CDV-1000 is an extremely attractive machine. It has rather more style than the Philips CDV-475, and some interesting additional features.

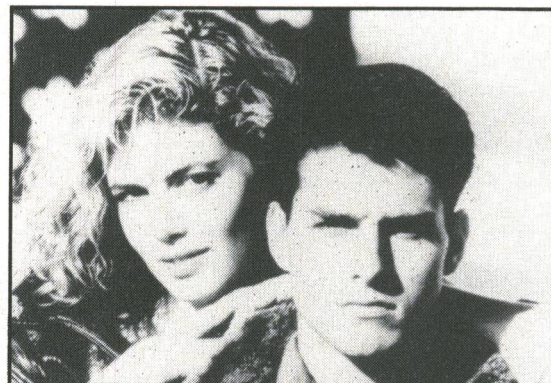
To combat the warping which the company says can occasionally effect discs, the Yamaha machine has a Super Tracking Tilt Servo Mechanism, mounted on a short pivot. This allows an objective lens to correctly maintain the focusing distance from the surface of the platter.

Up to 15 chapters or tracks can be stored in the deck's Play memory for replay in any order. Chapters are selected via the remote control.

Like the Philips and Pioneer models, a good deal of information is relayed via an onscreen display.

Its catalogue of trick frame effects is comparable with the Philips model.

Audio visual performance seems to be very good, although given that this is an NTSC player it is, perhaps, wise to reserve judgement until we see a genuine PAL standard player.



OWNERS OF both new CD Video players and old LaserVision models can now buy a new selection of analogue sound big movie releases from Laser Disc Distribution, Edinburgh.

This independent has secured the rights to releases *Top Gun* (see picture above), *Star Trek IV — The Voyage Home*, *Beverly Hills Cop 2*, *The Secret Of My Success* and *Dirty Dancing*.

All movies will be released with stereo soundtracks and CX noise reduction (compatible with Pioneer players), for £22.99 each.

The company is also releasing a digital CD Video clip disc of *Doctorin' The Tardis* by The Time Lords, for £6.99.

To secure copies of these collectors' editions, contact Laser Disc Distribution Ltd, 82 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QU.

Beware NTSC discs

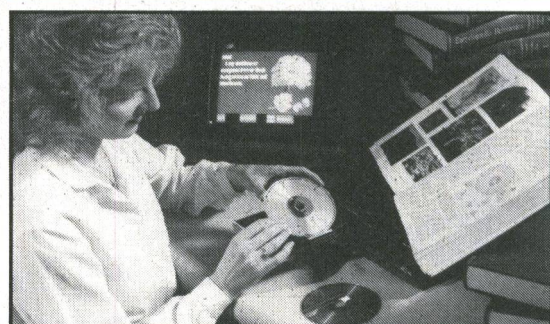
IF CD Video takes off, the lack of a single worldwide video standard could prove its biggest headache.

That's the view of Marcos Klorman, the man in charge of Polygram CDV Classics in America, who says that travellers used to bringing back Compact Discs as souvenirs from trips abroad may get a rude surprise when they try the same thing with CDV.

'When that happens — and it will when visitors to an NTSC country try to take recordings home to play on PAL equipment or vice versa — it will give the medium a bad name.

'People will blame the disc or the medium or their equipment for the fact that while they can hear music, the picture is not viewable.'

The Polygram executive points out that CDV packages do identify the video format used. But the type is not large — the name of the artist, the record label and the CDV logo are all much more prominent — and there is no explanation of what the letters 'PAL', 'SECAM' or 'NTSC' mean either on the label or on the outside of the package.

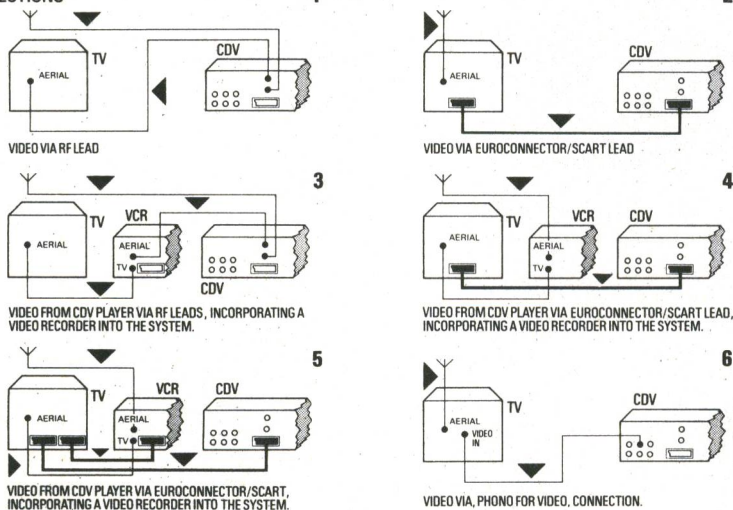


● Compact Disc ROM — the new vast capacity data system, invented by Philips, which allows 150,000 pages of A4 text (600 Mbytes) to be stored on one 12cm disc with a very fast access time.

Hooking up a CDV player

AUDIO AND VIDEO CONNECTIONS FOR PHILIPS CD VIDEO PLAYER

TV CONNECTIONS



HAVE
YOU BEEN
LISTENING
TO MUSIC
WITH YOUR
EYES
SHUT?

CD VIDEO.

NOW

YOU CAN

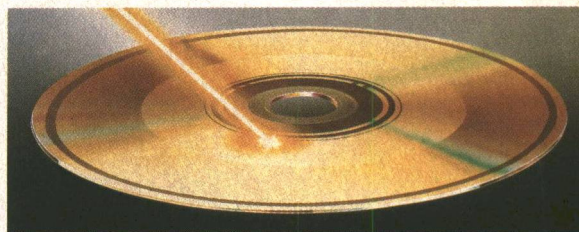
SEE

THE MUSIC.

When the compact disc first appeared back in 1983, it was hailed as nothing less than a revolution in recorded sound. ▶ Nothing quite like it had ever been heard before. ▶ No hiss. ▶ No crackle. ▶ Just pure unadulterated music. ▶ Now, with over 15,000 titles and a rapidly expanding catalogue, CD is firmly established as the standard by which other recordings are judged. ▶ Not prepared to rest upon their laurels, however, Philips take CD one step further. ▶ Using the same laser technology that allowed them to produce perfect sound, they now produce perfect sound with brilliant pictures. ▶ CD Video. ▶



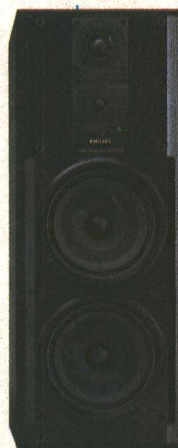
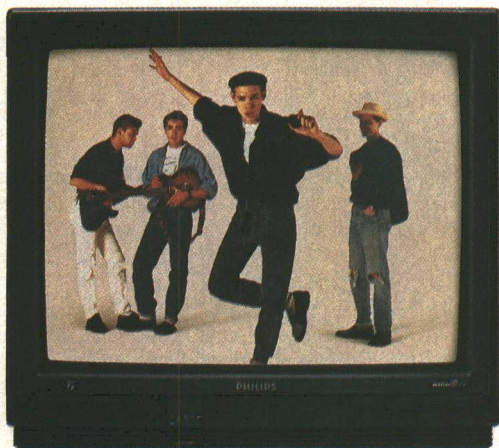
SILVER FOR PERFECT SOUND



GOLD FOR PERFECT SOUND AND PICTURES

ONE PLAYER. TWO KINDS OF DISC.

Now there are two kinds of compact disc, the already familiar silver version for perfect digital sound only. ▶ And a new golden CD Video disc for perfect sound with pictures of startling clarity. ▶



Both kinds of disc are playable on the revolutionary new CD Video player shown here. ▶

YOUR CHOICE: SOUND ONLY. OR SOUND AND PICTURES.

Connected up to your amp, speakers and TV it gives you a complete CD entertainment

centre. ▶ One on which you can enjoy not only your favourite CD recordings, but also the wealth of new entertainment available on CD Video. ▶ CD Video singles and albums are in selected record shops now – on 5", 8" and 12" discs. ▶ CD

Video players are at your nearest Philips dealer. ▶ Phone 0800 300 700 and we'll give you his name and address. ▶ Having opened your ears to the best in recorded



sound, Philips will now open your eyes. ▶

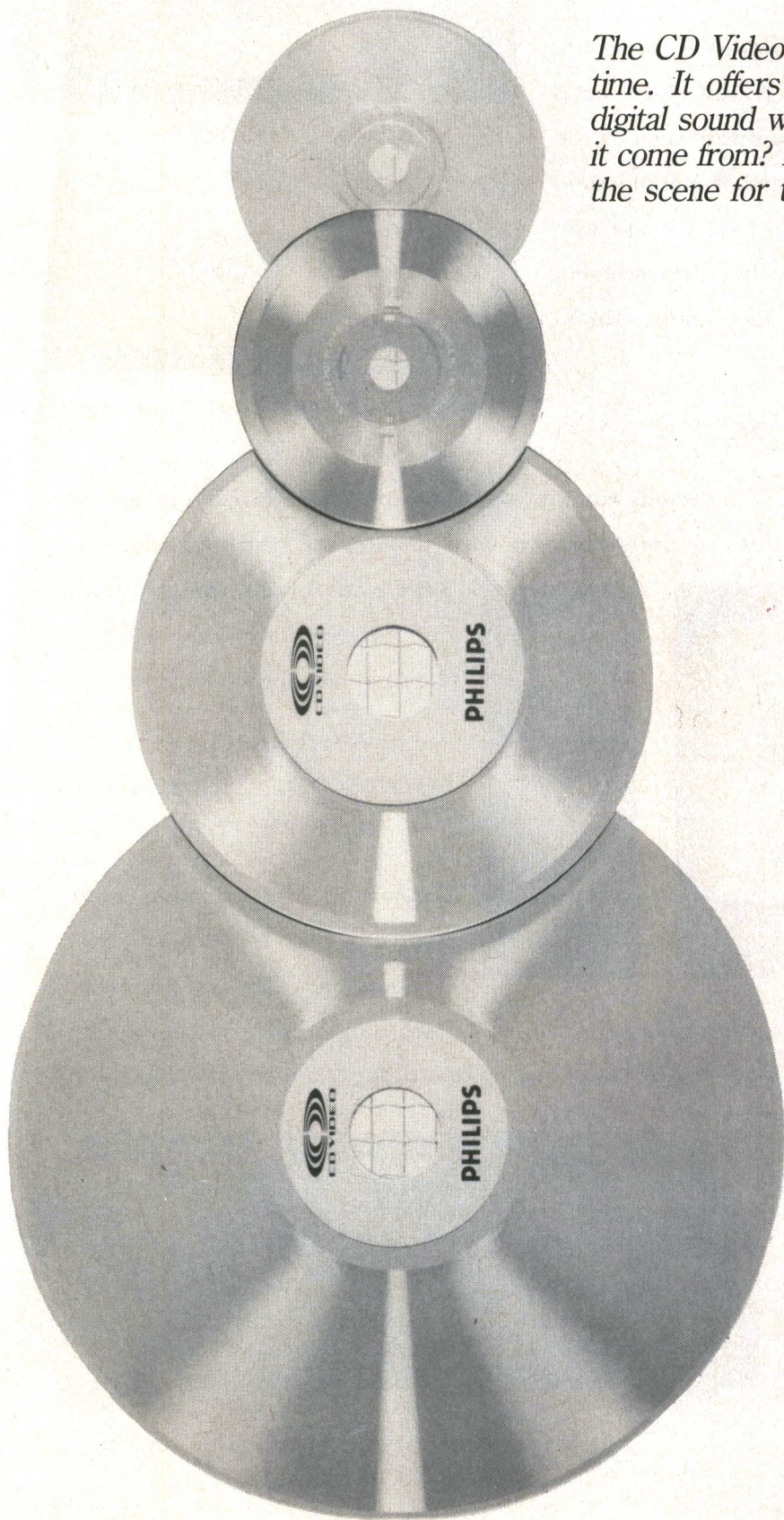


PHILIPS



CD VIDEO IS GO

The CD Video system has been promised for a long time. It offers the prospect of combining excellent digital sound with superb picture quality. Where has it come from? How does it work? Marcus Miller sets the scene for this new home entertainment medium



AFTER SEVERAL false starts, Compact Disc Video is off the blocks and running. The new format's launch may have been subject to more cancellations than a British Rail service, but now CDV players are in the shops and the new-style discs are on sale.

CDV neatly bridges the gap between audio and video, and a CDV player connects to both your TV set and hi-fi system. It plays discs which are a mix of high quality digital sound and colour TV pictures.

The system was developed from the *Compact audio disc*, and the *LaserVision video disc*, and all three formats share the same technology.

The audio or video information is placed on a reflective disc in the form of microscopic pits which are scanned by a laser.

CD discs contain *digital* audio, while LaserVision is a mix of *analogue* pictures and sound.

A CDV disc is a *hybrid* of digital audio and analogue video.

The LaserVision system, which carries colour TV pictures on an LP-sized disc, was launched in America in late 1978, and in Europe four years later. But the format didn't sell too well because it was a playback only medium, and most people wanted to record TV programmes.

LaserVision sales picked up in Japan and America when companies like Pioneer began marketing players which could play both LaserVision discs and audio CDs.

The format received a further boost when LaserVision discs were released with both digital audio and FM analogue soundtracks.

This cleverly maintained compatibility between the new-style players and the older LaserVision decks which ignored the digital sound, and played the FM track as normal.

But this only applied to countries which used the NTSC TV system (like America and Japan), where there was room in the frequency band for the additional soundtrack — the *PAL* system used by most European countries simply doesn't have the space.

This was partly why LaserVision flopped in Europe, and so inventors Philips decided to run the system down and establish CD Video.

THE CDV standard was set by Philips, along with Matsushita (Panasonic), Yamaha and Pioneer.

The CDV *soundtrack* is digital (or in the case of NTSC discs, a digital/FM mix), but the *pictures* remain analogue like those for LaserVision.

This is because putting digital video pictures on disc is technically much more difficult, and requires a large amount of storage capacity.

A 5in. CD single, which can hold up to 75 minutes of digital stereo sound, would get less than a minute's



digital video in the same amount of space.

One of the problems which held up CDV was poor picture quality, and on prototype players, the analogue and digital data would bleed into one another causing picture disturbance.

But Philips claims to have licked this problem, and if they're right, then CDV picture quality is potentially as good as Super VHS.

CDV discs come in *three types*, all of which are coloured gold to distinguish them from silver CD audio

discs.

The smallest is a *5in. version*, identical in size to an ordinary CD disc. These discs have up to six minutes of video with digital sound on the outer edge, and a further 20 minutes of digital audio on the inner portion.

On an ordinary CD disc, the laser reads the pits from the inner part of the disc and then tracks towards the edge. As the laser scans across, the disc's rotational speed is reduced from 500 rpm to 200 rpm. But this speed is far too slow for video playback.

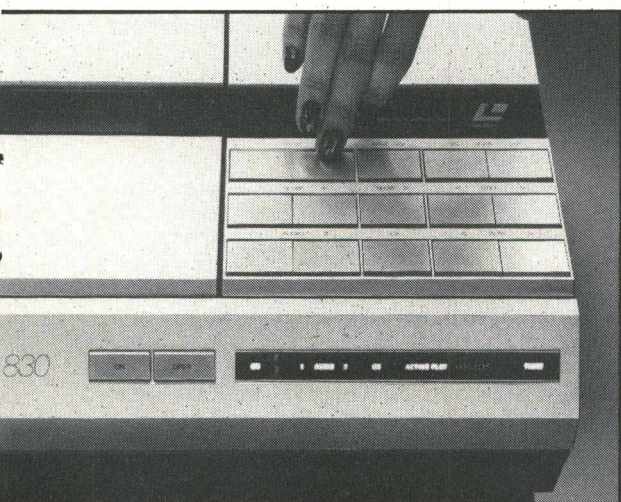
For video, a 5in. CDV disc is spun at 2,250 rpm, and when the laser moves onto the inner audio portion, the speed is reduced to the normal 500 rpm. These small CDV discs, like normal CDs, play on one side only.

The two other discs are double-sided, with an *8in. 'EP'* carrying up to 20 minutes of digital audio and video per side, and a *12in. type* having up to 60 minutes of sound and pictures on each side.

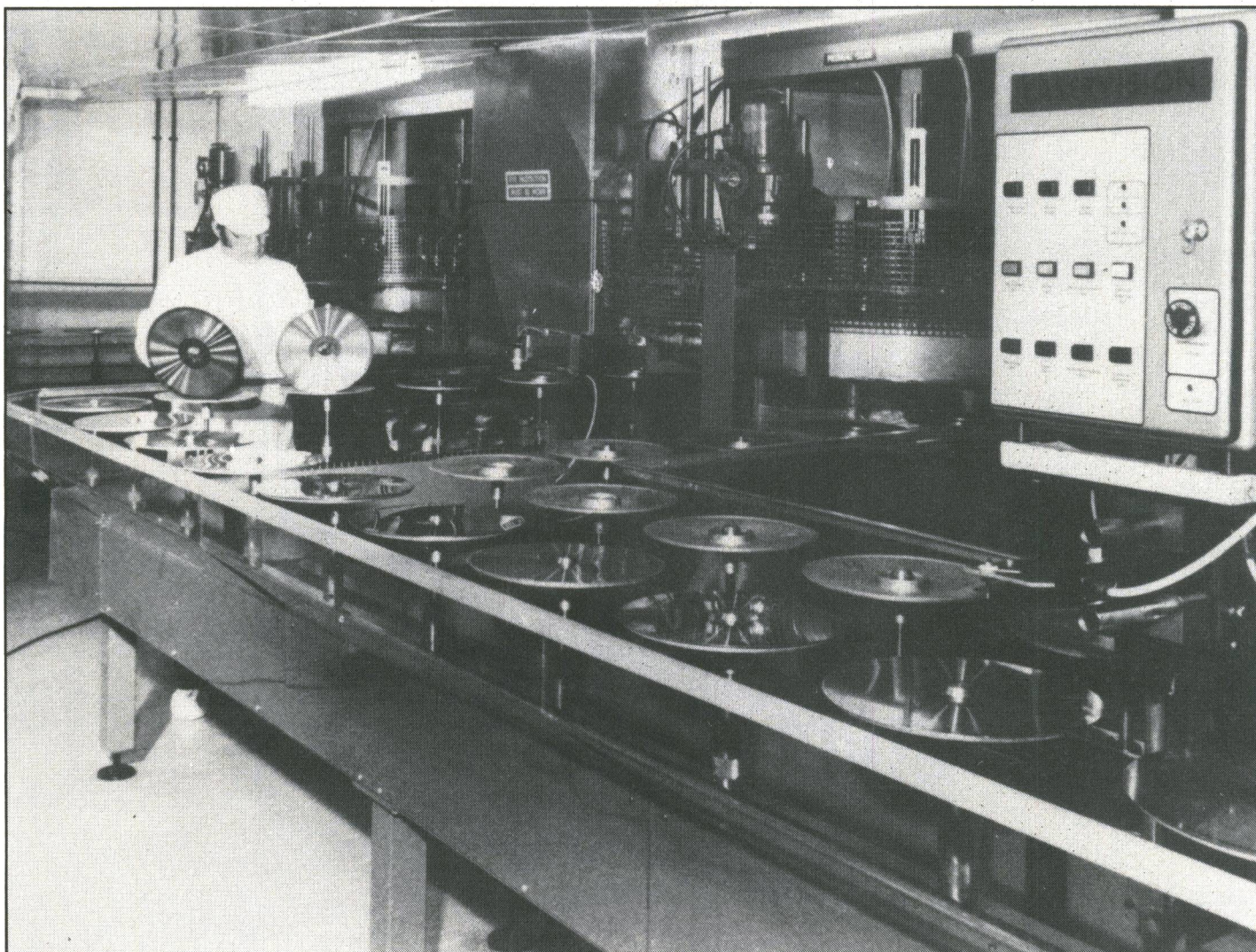
CDV DISCS also come in two forms, known as CAV and CLV. The former has a *constant angular velocity*, which means that they spin at a steady speed, like an LP record, although at 1500 rpm, rather than 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm.

CAV discs also have their pits arranged so that one revolution is equal to one TV frame or picture. This makes it easy to perform *trick play* features like still frame or frame advance, and because of this, these discs are known as 'active play'.

But the penalty for CAV is a shorter playing time of 36 minutes per side, and so for longer times, the pits are packed closer together, and the disc's speed is



● Old LaserVision players cannot play CDV discs.



● 8in. and 12in. CDV discs can be mastered in Active Play (CAV) for trick play effects of Long Play for maximum playing time.

varied from 1500 to 570 rpm, so that the discs have a constant linear velocity.

Most CDV software is released in the CLV form, and these are known as *long play* discs.

However, because the video information is unevenly scattered over the disc, trick play is no longer possible.

But in Japan, Sony and Pioneer are marketing CDV players which have digital frame stores to freeze pictures from any type of disc — CAV or CLV. The Pioneer deck even has a jog dial for frame advance. If CDV takes off, we can expect similar models here.

So far, two kinds of CDV machines are being released — *Combi players* like the Philips CDV-475, which play all sizes and types of discs, and *Clip players* which take CD discs and 5in. CDVs. Later on, there may be *portables* which play 3in. and 5in. CDs plus 5in. CDVs.

Unfortunately, the many different types and sizes of discs makes for a confusing situation when it comes to compatibility.

Whereas CD audio discs have worldwide compatibility, and a CD disc bought anywhere in the world will play on any CD player, CDV discs and players have to be made for specific world markets.

This is because the video portion of CDV is analogue, which means that it falls foul of the TV standards split which has dogged video formats.

As a result, there are *European* or *625-line* CDV discs and players, and *525-line* NTSC CDV discs and players.

Just as an NTSC pre-recorded video tape will not play properly on a PAL VCR, and vice-versa, so an NTSC CDV disc will not produce pictures on a European CDV player.

When a 5in. NTSC disc was put into a prototype machine, the player recognised the video sub-code and tried to play it. Sometimes there was a mess on-screen, other times the player skipped onto the inner audio portion and hunted for the video section there. After a short period of looking, the machine shut down. The new machines will not try to play NTSC discs.

However, there are no such problems when buying discs on the continent, because there is a common 625-line CDV format, and no PAL/SECAM split (the latter standard is used in France).

The new CDV combi players can play old style LaserVision discs, but previous *LaserVision* decks can't play CDV software, because the players lack the circuitry to process the digital signal. You can however, play a 5in. CDV disc in an ordinary CD player — although you won't get any pictures. All CDV machines can play three and five inch CDs.

ONE FINAL point: a CDV player and a VCR can be linked together, and daisy-chained to the TV set. Most CDV players have an aerial socket (but no tuner), and the TV signal is passed onto the video recorder as normal. By switching between channels, you can choose whether you watch your video recorder, TV set, or CDV player.



OPENING GAMBITS

Who's doing what with CD Video players

SOME DEFINITELY are, others probably will, and the rest are watching and waiting — that's how companies are playing it when it comes to releasing CD Video equipment.

After the poor showing of LaserVision in Europe, and the technical problems which bedevilled CDV, most companies are standing on the sidelines and letting others take the lead in breaking the format.

So far, just three companies — **Pioneer**, **Philips** and **Marantz** — have promised CDV players by Christmas, several others have displayed or intend to display PAL CDV decks, without giving release dates, while the rest refuse to discuss their CDV plans.

Some of these have probably got stacks of PAL CDV players in mothballs, which will be launched if CDV looks like being a success, or quietly scrapped if CDV flops.

Video discs have proved fairly popular in countries like America, where 1 per cent of the households have a video disc player, and in Japan, where the figure is 6 per cent — Pioneer has sold over one million players there alone.

LaserVision flopped in Europe, but CD has flourished and companies are hoping that CD will carry CDV.

This week, **Philips** launches the CDV-475, a £499 Combi player, with infra-red remote, and it's following this up later this month with the CDV-185 Clip player, priced at £349.

Meanwhile, **Pioneer** is kicking off with the £579 CLD-1200, a fairly basic model which is sold in Japan as the CLD-77.

The machine has remote control, but no trick play features which means it can't be used for CAV discs. This is no great problem, says Pioneer, as there are very few Active Play CAV discs available.

Pioneer already markets a top-end NTSC player, the CLD-99, which has a digital frame store for special effects like freeze frame, frame advance, mosaic and strobe. If CDV takes off, similar models are bound to appear in Europe.

Marantz is launching the CV-55, a £599 tweaked clone of the Philips CDV-475.

AT THIS year's May trade show, Hitachi displayed a PAL combi player, the VIP-37C, but the company says it has no plans to release it this year. Sharp and Ferguson say that next year seems the likely date for their move into CDV.

Somewhat surprisingly, **Yamaha**, one of the signatories to the CDV standard, has no plans at present to market a European CDV player, although the company is enthusiastic about the format.

Sony is to show PAL Combi and Clip players at this month's Photokina exhibition, held in Germany, but the

players seem set to be launched next year.

Panasonic has just released a CDV player in Japan, the £700 LX-300. Interestingly, it's put an 'S' connector on the back to maximise picture quality when playing discs through new generation S-VHS compatible TVs. As for PAL CDV, 'Not yet' came the reply.

WHEN CDV was first announced in March 1987, a number of software companies looked like jumping aboard the bandwagon, but after all the false starts and delays, most have turned cold to the idea.

Although CDV owners will at least be able to go out and buy CDs, they're also going to want CDV discs too — after all, that's why they didn't buy a CD player in the first place.

So far, only Polygram (owned by Philips) has announced any CDV software. The company is launching 160 titles, ranging from pop video clips to classical music.

The 5 in. CDV disc will sell for £4.99, the 8in. EPs at around £14-£16, and the 12in. version, which will carry films, classical music and opera, for about £20.

Whether 160 discs is enough to whet the appetite of potential buyers remains to be seen. One thing is certain: CDV will need far more software than this to keep the punter happy. Nobody wants to watch the same clutch of video discs over and over again.



● Early CDV disc samples appeared in plastic sleeved cases — these have been scrapped in favour of cardboard sleeves.

PHILIPS CDV-475

Hooray! Eighteen months after first seeing CD Video demonstrations in Holland, we finally received a Philips combi player — for 5, 8 and 12in. video and audio discs — to evaluate. Steve May claps his ears and eyes on the £499 CDV-475

THE FIRST Philips combi CD Video machine has gone on sale — at last.

Its arrival is the long-awaited climax to an age of 'is it on? is it off?' teasing. This is because the machine is the first PAL standard, digital sounds laser disc player able to replay conventional 5in. CD discs (which can contain 74 minutes of ultra-high quality stereo sound); the new gold-coloured 5in. CDV 'clip' single (containing six minutes of video and 20 minutes of audio); 8in. CDV extended play discs (20 minutes of sound and vision per side); and 12in. Long Play CDVs (60 minutes of sound and vision per side) — plus analogue sound LaserVision video discs.

Predictably, it's a good deal smaller than first and second generation PAL LV machinery. Indeed, with a width of 420mm it's comparable with conventional hi-fi audio separates, and can be stacked accordingly. The paint job is regulation matt black.

Cosmetically, the fascia seems cleaved in two. The upper half is predominantly the lip of the tray, which extends to accept the various platters. Moulded wells

are provided to accept various disc sizes.

Unfortunately, there's no provision on the player for the new breed of 3in. CD singles. The machine has been tethered at the starting block for so long, it's rather missed out on the arrival of this new disc size. An 5in.-wide adaptor is required to play the titchy silver singles.

The tray itself is somewhat flimsy. Robust it's not.

As with conventional CD machines, replay information is shown on a large status display which dominates the bottom half of the fascia. It gives elapsed time, in minutes and seconds, alongside chapter and index information.

A full-size 6.3mm headphone jack and volume control, pause and Standby buttons complete the front panel array.

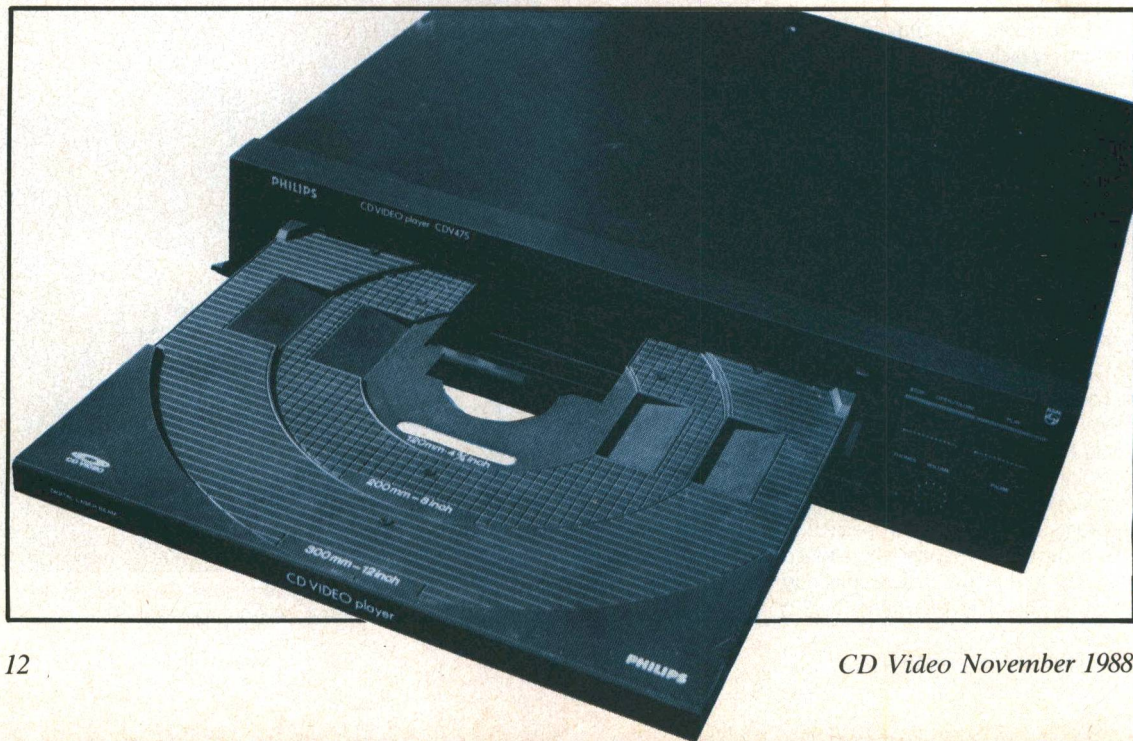
Onboard buttons have been kept to a minimum. All additional replay modes are effected via the infra-red remote control handset.

Stunningly-clear variable speed slow motion, rock-solid still frame and frame advance/reverse are all possible, but only from correctly-mastered Active Play video discs.

The remote also allows you to key in track and chapter requests, call up each sound channel individually, and jump backwards or forwards through indexed discs via a Jump/Next key pairing.

As with a majority of modern CD players, the deck can be programmed to replay disc tracks in any favoured order. An onboard memory will configure as many as 20 tracks to taste.

(If fewer than 20 tracks are selected, the player will automatically shut down after the final selection.) ▶



THE PLAYERS



● The Philips CDV-475 player (above) and Pioneer's CLD-1200 (see over for review).





● The CDV 475 has Scart and phono video plugs — plus a digital phono output for CD Graphic add-ons.

To make programming easier, the player has a comprehensive onscreen graphic display, something we've seen for some time on Japanese NTSC standard, laser disc players. The system is certainly user friendly; programming disc tracks is simpler than setting a VCR timer.

This onscreen display mirrors deck display.

Backside outputs are comprehensive. Gold-plated phono connectors carry the sound from the deck to an expectant audio system; video is routed via a phono output. Sound and vision in tandem can be carried via a Scart connector or bog-standard aerial RF lead. A phono digital output is also provided, for future development of the CD medium.

THE ROAD to CD Video has not been an easy one for Philips.

The relative failure of the original LaserVision format has given video disc technology a stigma which has been exasperated by rumours of failing prototype PAL CDV players.

Thankfully, that's history. Philips has successfully married high resolution pictures to digital sound — and the results are spectacular.

Although we had only a smattering of CD Video discs to evaluate the system, picture quality was found to be never much less than impressive.

Images from disc were sharp, detailed and clean. The infuriating pressing spots and speckles that marred batches of LaserVision discs in the past are largely absent. Even LV discs that suffered from crosstalk when played on the Philips VLP-600/700 series machines appear clean.

The bandwidth of CD Video is pegged at 5MHz, which means that theoretically the system can reproduce very high resolution pictures indeed. Of course, the limiting factor is the quality of the master material used for duplication.

Put into context: on a good day, with a stiff breeze blowing in the right direction, the Philips 475 CD Video player will effortlessly outperform VHS, Video 8 and

SuperBeta video formats.

Picture quality is marginally superior to Philips LaserVision players that have gone before, although reds and blues are still troublesome and seem noisy.

As stated, the trick play repertoire of the 475 is superb. Properly-mastered material produces sensational, high-resolution slo-mo effects that put even good VHS VCRs aided by digital frame stores, in the shade.

Sadly, with CDV singles and non-active play EPs and LPs you can't engage in any replay tomfoolery. Pause is available, but it lacks a picture. Search sees the picture drop into black and white and then roll.

To prevent confusion between the different, and incompatible, world TV standards, the machine refuses to play NTSC standard clip discs.

When fed an American CDV, an onscreen graphic flashes 'NTSC CLIP' and the player skips to the audio-only section of the disc.

WITH ALL this talk of video, it's perhaps easy to gloss over the audio performance of the machine. That would be an injustice. This is a mighty fine CD player in its own right.

The combi employs a 16-bit four times oversampling sound system that gives a comparable sonic performance to Philips lower-end dedicated CD players. The stereo soundstage it projects is both wide and dynamic. A variety of pop and rock was auditioned; the delivered sound was crisp and lively — if a touch unsuited.

The deck's frequency response covers 20Hz-20KHz (about the same as the VHS Hi-fi standard, and better than 8mm PCM audio). The dynamic range nudges a very wide 96dB. Total harmonic distortion is quoted at less than 0.003%.

Analogue sound, recovered from silver LaserVision video discs, seems merely adequate in comparison. The dramatic soundstage and dynamics are patently absent.

Still, the better-served stereo LV platters are far from second division. There's certainly no reason for a collector of laser discs to avoid non-digital discs.

Curiously, the 475 is not *totally* backwards compatible. It doesn't allow access to the special teletext information used on some of the early LaserVision releases.

It would seem that either the bandwidth is being trimmed below 5MHz, possibly being rolled off at around 4.4MHz, thereby leaving the Philips player unable to recover text information from the video

BUILDING A SYSTEM



● Philip's ruthless 300 FA960 amplifier.

THE PHILIPS CDV-475 and Pioneer's CLD-1200 were auditioned with the former's new flagship amplifier, the £300 FA960 — a monolithic muscle amp offering 115watts per channel and seven source inputs, including TV (Nicom), video (VHS Hi-fi), tuner, two cassette decks, phono (selectable for moving magnet or coil cartridges) and CDV.

Incidentally, both the phono and CD inputs are gold-plated, to minimise signal degradation.

The audio performance of this brawny beast is most satisfying, showing that Philips *can* produce audiophile equipment of quality when it puts its mind to it.

The 960 delivers a hard, revealing sound of considerable zest. For truly ruthless clarity, a CD Direct switch is provided to bypass tone control circuitry and minimise extraneous noise.

SWITCHING HITCH

ALTHOUGH SQUARELY intended as an audio-visual component, owners of the Philips CDV 475 may experience some difficulties installing the player into an integrated AV system.

For an as-yet unclear reason, the Philips player is quite incompatible with the AV-251 switching box from its subsidiary company Marantz.

When video is routed from the CDV player to this unit, there is a loss of sync — pictures tear and drop into black and white.

This is particularly embarrassing for Marantz, as it intends to badge the Philips player. Apparently no-one in either company thought to try the disc player with the kind of switching box equipment that it will inevitably be used with in domestic systems.

Exactly why the 475 should react so badly with the AV box is perplexing. Switchers should be passive devices and the video output from a CDV machine should be no different from that of a VCR.

Marantz technician Artur Bildziuk was initially at a loss to explain the problem: *'It's possible that the player is beating with an oscillator within the AV-251,'* he ventured *'but we'll have to carry out exhaustive tests to know for sure . . .'*

The ramifications of the problem are considerable. It's impossible to predict just how many other switching devices/AV amplifiers, from the likes of Sansui, Yamaha etc, cause similar effects when used in conjunction with the Philips player.

For the record, the Pioneer CLD-1200 works perfectly well with the Marantz unit. More news in WHAT VIDEO as we get it . . .

bandwidth.

This is unfortunate because employing teletext on laser disc to carry additional tutorial information is a neat innovation that was never fully exploited at the time.

This apart, Philips has delivered the goods.

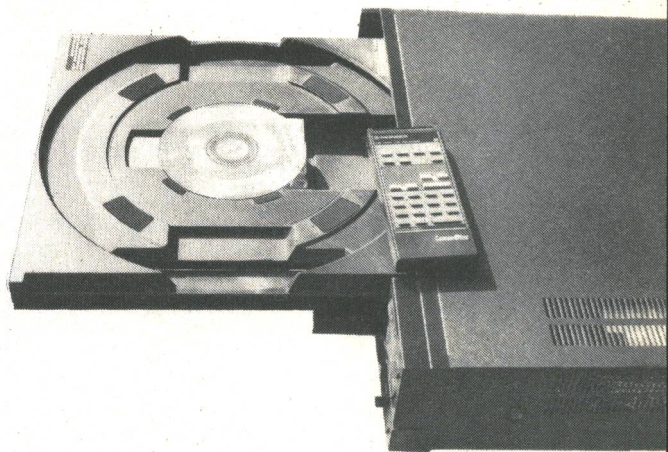
The 475 combi player sounds superb, is easy to use and can potentially deliver video images that almost rival off-air TV quality.

The glitz, shine and stunning performance of CD Video all combine to make a sexy new technology. The 475 is an effective seducer.

To complement the CDV-475/FA960 AV environment, two more matching components were hooked into the system: a £180 FC566 single cassette deck — with auto reverse, Dolby B and C noise reduction and advanced music search and intro scan (which works the same way as the intro scan facility on some VCRs, replaying 10 seconds of each track to help find favoured passages) — and a £130 FT565 stereo tuner with 24 station presets (16FM and 8MW/LW) and noise reduction, which transpires to be a fine source for simulcast VCR recordings.

Build quality on all these components is high (ironically, all originate from Japan!) and sonically they're a fine match (although the cassette deck sounds rather woolly with pre-recorded tapes).

The total system price, including the CD Video player (but excluding speakers) is £1108.



PIONEER CLD-1200

Pioneer has long championed laser video discs. It is co-leading the introduction of CD Video with the £579 CLD-1200 machine. Steve May was the first person in the country with a CDV stack system . . .

ALTHOUGH THE Philips brand is synonymous with optical laser technology, it was Pioneer that gave LaserVision credibility.

When the European giant tried to wash its hands of video disc during the early 1980s, Pioneer persevered with new equipment, eventually succeeding in producing the first combination compact disc/laser disc player. The firm has been instrumental in popularising LaserVision with digital audio worldwide.

It's fitting, then, that it should shadow Philips with CD Video technology onto the UK market.

It's significant also that the Pioneer CLD-1200 comes emblazoned with all manner of recognisable laser badges. While Philips desperately plays down CDV's links with LaserVision, Pioneer trumpets them. The £579 CLD-1200 is proudly tagged a 'CD CDV LD player, OK?'

Physically, it's similar to the Philips CDV-475. It's the same width, but at 110mm high and 438mm deep, it takes up rather more shelf space. The fascia is also busier, with a numerical keypad (for search, track selection and program input) and transport controls positioned left of the display.

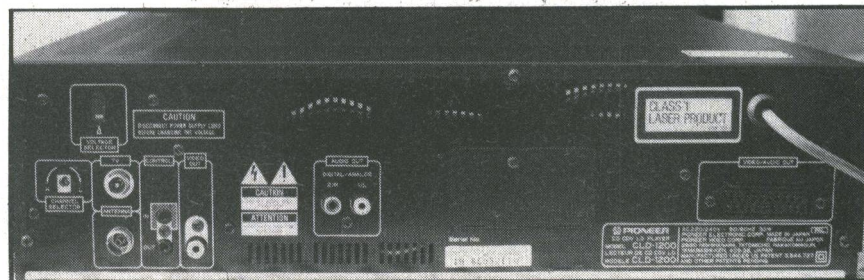
The front panel is actually hinged, easing down to allow the disc tray to eject.

Predictably it shares a number of comparable features with the Philips: there's a programmable 20-track memory, an onscreen display, repeat playback facility and Chapter Skip/Next Track nudges.

THERE ARE, however, also some significant differences.

Standard disc tweaks are embellished by an Auto Programme Edit facility and random playback. The ►

● The Pioneer CLD-1200 with regulation Scart and phono AV outputs.

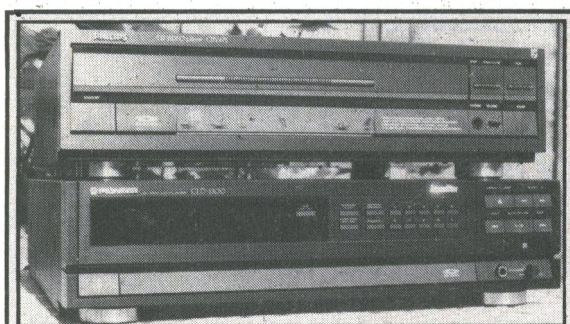


former neatly juggles required CD track selections to fit a specified cassette tape length, when dubbing, while the latter mixes up CD track listings, in no particular order, for those who like to add a dash of unpredictability to their listening pleasure.

Also unique to the Pioneer player is a CX noise-reduction system — a common feature on previous Pioneer LV players.

CX encoding, found on only a few LaserVision discs, is used to improve the signal-to-noise ratio and dynamic range of analogue recordings. It was once, you may recall, touted as a noise reduction standard for vinyl records by inventors CBS. Although several albums were released with CX, the system never gained wide acceptance.

Unlike the Philips player, however, the CLD-1200 does *not* allow access to any of the trick play facilities of Active Play LV platters.



THE CHOICE

CHOOSING BETWEEN these two techno-treats is perhaps not as difficult as might at first appear.

The Philips is arguably the better sounding CD player of the two, and is capable of superb video trick play courtesy of Active Play discs. It's an appealing, populist machine that seems a fair bet at £499.

The Pioneer, conversely, gives the better picture (and can handle Ceefax) and has a very high quality of construction. It lacks Active Play trickery (which may only be of importance if you come to CD Video via LaserVision) and a digital output for as yet unavailable bolt-ons, but competes with a neat auto edit facility, CX encoding and random CD play.

It has an air of authority that the Philips lacks — but then it should do at £579.

CD Video is a hugely attractive new format that makes a fine adjunct to a conventional video system. It also cleverly bridges audio and video technology.

Both machines bring the future of integrated sound and vision just a little bit nearer.

Owners of substantial Active Play laser discs libraries will doubtless be very disappointed to learn that they cannot replay the climax of *Commando* in gut-wrenching, broadcast-quality, slo-mo.

Ironically, despite this trait, the Pioneer has the better search facility. The company has employed a nifty new reference shift time base correction servo to minimise picture disturbance during Long Play Scan. Search is a lot neater as a result.

When Pause is engaged, a black screen appears; there are no still frame pix available.

As with the Philips player, NTSC-standard 5in. CDV discs will not play; the deck automatically skips to the audio portion of the disc.

Backside connections comprise Scart, RF and phono video output, plus standard phono audio plugs, but there's no direct digital output.

THE CLD-1200 is certainly a superbly built machine. It has a quality of construction that outclasses the Philips player by some degree.

The disc tray, which on the CDV-475 is flimsy in the extreme, is well-engineered and robust; it has a tray for the new 3in. CD single format and a magnetic disc clamber.

Extensive honeycomb construction has been used throughout the machine to absorb disc resonance and motor vibrations.

The unit also utilises a new light pick-up assembly, built around a single moulded plastic lens, and a one chip integrated video circuit.

THE RESULT is a quite superb picture from both CDV clips and LaserVision albums.

Images are revealed with stunning clarity, while noise (a minor problem on the Philips) is negligible. In a side-by-side comparison, it's the Pioneer that gives the better picture.

Sound reproduction is also excellent. Digital tracks are recreated with pleasing confidence; the sound is surprisingly smooth and relaxed.

Pioneer use 2x oversampling; dynamic range is a respectable 95dB with harmonic distortion a meagre 0.005%.

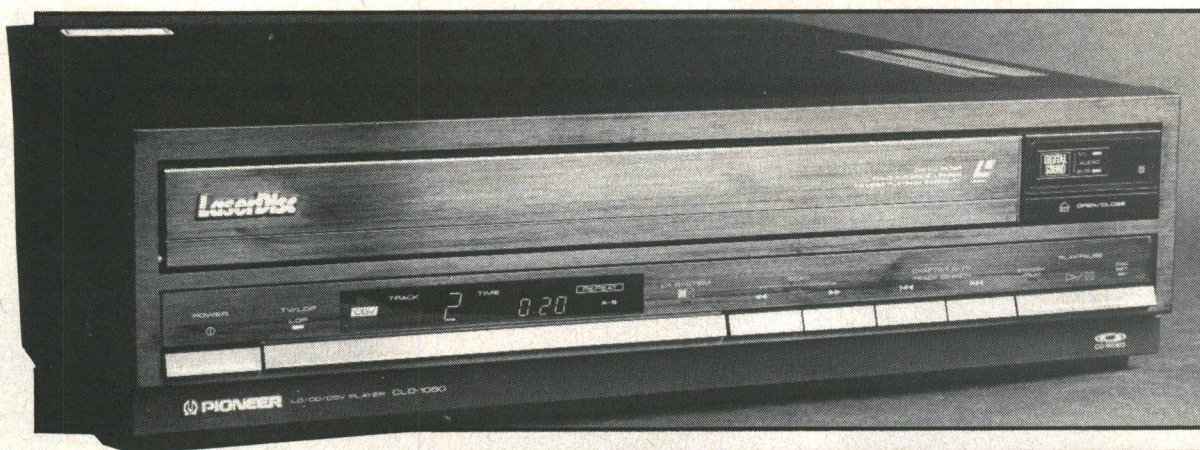
I think it lacks the crisp precision of the Philips player, but newcomers to digital audio could find its character less fatiguing.

Analogue sound, retrieved from non-CX encoded laser discs, is respectfully handled. Non digital playback is slightly better than that found on the limited release CLD-1050.

Interestingly, the Pioneer has no problem with Ceefax-encoded Laser discs — and is completely compatible with the Marantz AV-251 switching box.

Although expensive as a Trivial Pursuit under £600, the CLD-1200 is an excellent new machine.

It's beautifully made, has a tarty design, boasts a fair range of mainstream audio facilities, sounds good and delivers a marvellous picture.



● Above: Pioneer's limited edition CLD-1050 player gave poor analogue sound — the CLD-1200 conquers this fault (see test, left).



● Right: STOP PRESS — the much-touted Yamaha CDV-1000 — but when will we see a European version? (See News, p4).

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Photo courtesy of English National Opera



LaserDisc

The CLD-1200 is compatible with all PAL-standard video discs bearing the CD Video, LaserVision or LaserDisc marks. LaserDisc™ is a trademark of Pioneer Electronic Corporation.

YOU'VE EVER HEARD BEFORE

Has Compact Disc technology taken leave of its senses? Now they've captured not just the sounds of your favourite music on CD. But the pictures too!

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A perfect synergy of sound and vision. Combining the precision of digital CD sound with Pioneer's famous state-of-the-art laser optical technology to bring you a whole new dimension in home entertainment.

But, as if that wasn't already enough, the CLD-1200 is great for playing your conventional compact discs, too - right down to the newest 8cm mini-CDs. No adaptor required.

There are no concessions to convenience, either. Infrared remote control, direct programming, on-screen display, simple and comprehensive connectors. The door to a new world of sound and vision has never been easier to open. If you have a TV and a hi-fi system, you're already two-thirds of the way to the future. The Pioneer CLD-1200 is the next bold step.

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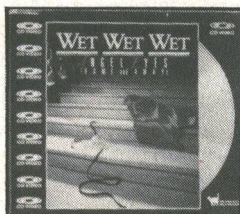
 **PIONEER®**
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CDV RELEASES

The first CDV software comes from Polygram and will be staggered over October/November — 5in. clips will sell for £4.99, 8in. £9.99, 12in. £20.

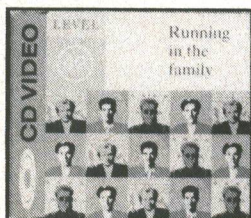
5in. Clips Out Now

Tears For Fears — Everybody Wants To Rule The World
Elton John — Nikita
Def Leppard — Love Bites
Was Not Was — Walk The Dinosaur
Swing Out Sister — Break-out
The Mission — Wasteland
Curiosity Killed The Cat — Misfit



Wet Wet Wet — Angel Eyes
Big Country — King Of Emotion
Cameo — Word Up
Kiss — Crazy Nights
Bon Jovi — Living On A Prayer

Derek B — Got The Juice
INXS — Never Tear Us Apart
Dire Straits — Money For Nothing



Level 42 — Running In The Family
Pepsi & Shirlie — Heartache
Godley & Creme — Cry
Visage — Mind Of A Toy
The Cure — Why Can't I Be You
Fat Boys — Wipe Out
Style Council — Threw It All Away
Vanessa Paradis — Joe Le Taxi
Lloyd Coles and The Com-motions — Perfect Skin
Moody Blues — Out There Somewhere
Shakatak — Down On The Streets
Siouxsie and The Banshees — Peek A Boo

Magnum — Start Talking Love
James Brown — Playback Mix
Deep Purple — Bad Attitude
Communards — Don't Leave Me
Bananarama — Love In The 1st Degree
Hothouse Flowers — Don't Go
Voice of the Beehive — Don't Call Me Baby
Joyce Simms — Come Into My Life
Fine Young Cannibals — Suspicious Minds
Salt 'n' Pepa — Push It
Mory Kante — Yeke Yeke
Joshua Bell — Hungarian Dance

5in. Clips November

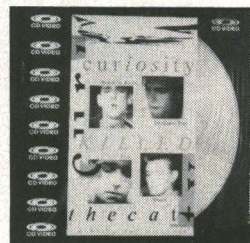
Love & Money — Hallelujah Man
All About Eve — Martha's Harb
Lilac Time — Return To Yesterday
Elton John — I Don't Want To Etc . . .

Status Quo — Ain't Complaining
Wet Wet Wet — Temptation
Clive Griffin — Don't Make Me Wait
Jerry Harrison — Rev It Up
Was Not Was — Anything Can . . .
The Mission — Tower Of Strength
Big Country — In A Big Country
Curiosity — Free
INXS — Need You Tonight
Cinderella — Gypsy Road
Yello — The Race
Tears For Fears — Shout
Tears For Fears — Head Over . . .
Tears For Fears — I Believe
Dire Straits — Walk Of Life
Cure — In Between Days
Cure — Catch
Level 42 — Lessons In Love
Level 42 — Leaving Me Now
Level 42 — Heaven In My Hands
Lloyd Cole — Lost Weekend
Lloyd Cole — From The Hip
Shakatak — Dr Manic

Style Council — Long Hot Summer
Style Council — Ever Had It Blue
Fat Boys — Twist
Kingdom Come — Get It On
Moody Blues — Your Wildest Dream

8in. EPs Out Now

Swing Out Sister — And Why Not
Level 42 — Family Of Five
Wet Wet Wet — Video Singles



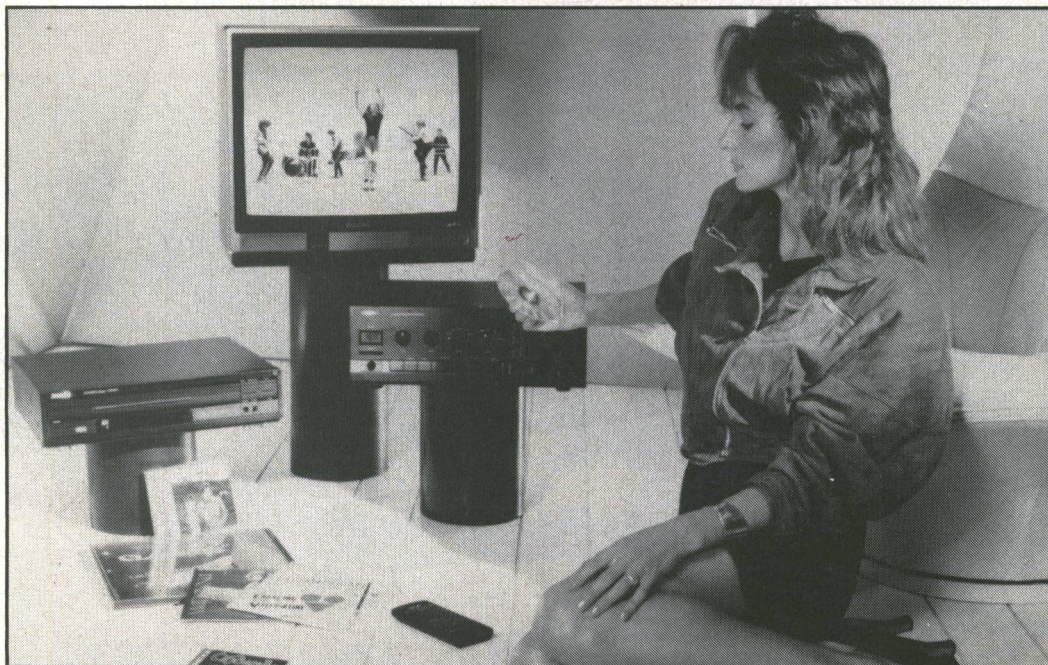
Curiosity Killed The Cat — Running The Distance
Cameo — Video Singles
Deep Purple — Video Singles
Pepsi & Shirlie — Alright Now
Dire Straits — Brothers In Arms
INXS — Kick — The Video Flick
Style Council — Confessions Of A Pop Group

8in. EPs November

Heart — If Looks Could Kill
Pet Shop Boys — Television
T'Pau — View From A Bridge
Genesis — Visible Touch
Peter Gabriel — C.V.

12in. LPs Out Now

Level 42 — Live At Wembley
Eurythmics — Live In



● A feast of music videos on the 5in. CDVs.



● Some of the first CD Video discs.

Australia
Bon Jovi — Slippery When Wet
Huey Lewis — Fore And More
Tina Turner — Rio '88
Big Country — Live
The Cure — In Orange
Roxy Music — The High Road
Style Council — Showbiz
Dire Straits — Alchemy
10cc/Godley & Creme — Changing Faces
Tears For Fears — Scenes From The Big Chair
James Last — Live In East Berlin
The Who — Who's Better Who's Best
Def Leppard — Hystoria
Magnum — On The Wings Of Heaven — Live
Status Quo — Rocking Thru The Years
Kiss — Exposed
Cyndi Lauper — In Paris

12in. LPs November

Kool & The Gang — Decade
The Mission — Dusk To

Dawn
Kate Bush — The Whole Story
Talking Heads — Storytelling...
Iron Maiden — Live After Death
Queen — Live In Budapest
Elton John — Live In Australia
Art Of Noise — Invisible Silence
Mike Oldfield — Wind Chimes
Carly Simon — Coming Round Again

Classical CDV LPs

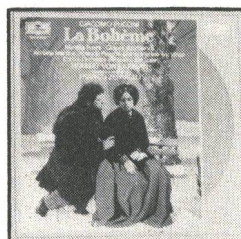
Decca International
Wagner — Overtures/Berlioz — Romeo and Juliet, by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
Rubinstein in Concert — Piano Concertos from Greig, Saint-Saëns, and Chopin with the London Symphony Orchestra.
Richard Strauss — Elektra, with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.
Verdi — Rigoletto, with Pavarotti, Wixell, Gruberova and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

Puccini — Tosca, with Kabaivanska, Domingo, Milnes and the National Philharmonic Orchestra.
Bach — The Brandenburg Concertos, by Concentus Musicus Wien.
Solti in Concert: Rossini — Overtures/Strauss — Don Juan/Smetana — Moldau/Liszt — Les Preludes with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Orchestra and George Solti.

Philips Classics
Beethoven — Symphonies Nos 4 & 7, by Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam.
Tchaikovsky — Swan Lake, with Nureyev, Fonteyn and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.
Adam — Giselle, by the Orchestra der Deutschen Oper Berlin.
Mascagni — Cavalleria Rusticana, from La Scala, Milan.
Leoncavallo — I Pagliacci, from La Scala, Milan.
Schubert — String Quartet in A minor "Rosamunde", Orlando Quartet.

Deutsche Grammophon
Verdi — Otello, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mahler — Symphony No 2, London Symphony Orchestra.
Beethoven — Symphonies Nos 5 & 6/Overture Leonore III, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.
Mozart — Piano Concertos Nos 19 & 23, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.
Brahms — Violin Concerto/Double Concerto, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.



Puccini — La Bohème, La Scala, Milan.
Richard Strauss — Salome, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Classical November

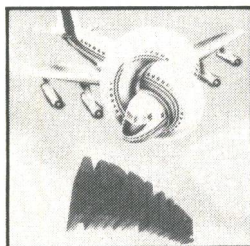
Das Rheingold — Bayreuth Festival Orchestra.
Die Walküre — Bayreuth Festival Orchestra.

Siegfried — Bayreuth Festival Orchestra.
Die Götterdämmerung — Bayreuth Festival Orchestra.
The Making of 'The Ring' — Bayreuth Festival Orchestra.
Falstaff — Bacquier/V.P.O./Solti.
Hansel & Gretel — Gruberova/V.P.O./Solti.
L'Orfeo — Monteverdi Ensemble.
Bruckner — Sym. 7, C.S.O./Solti.
Vienna In Music — V.P.O./Boskovsky.
An Evening With Kiri — L.S.O./Mauceri.
Die Fledermaus — Kleiber.
Cenerentola — Von Stade/La Scala Abbado.
Il Barbiere Di Siviglia — La Scala Abbado.
Der Rosenkavalier — Kleiber.
Rachmaninov Piano Con. 2/
Strauss Don Quixote — B.P.O./H.v.K.
West Side Story — Bernstein.
Brahms Piano Con. 1 & 2 — Zimerman.
Beethoven Sym. 9 — Bernstein/V.P.O.
Hommage A Sevilla — Domingo.

LASER DISCS

This is the current catalogue of analogue-sound LaserVision releases, all fully compatible with new CDV players. The distributors are S Gold & Sons (01-539 3600) and Lightning (01-965 5555). Our first listing is largely from the former although titles with an asterisk (*) are available from both distributors.

100 Rifles 4.99
11 Harrowhouse 4.99
39 Steps (1935) B/W 4.99
9 To 5 13.99
99.44% Dead 4.99
A Man, A Woman And A Bank 4.99
A Wedding 4.99
ABC-Mantrap 4.99
Absolution 3.50
Academy At Longleat 9.99
Adam & The Ants Live 4.99
Adv. Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother 4.99
Aida 23.99



Airplane 6.99
All Of Me 19.99
Amateur 4.99
Amazing Spiderman 6.15
American Ballet Theatre 19.99
An Eye For An Eye 6.99
An Unmarried Woman 4.99
Animal Magic 4.99
Animalympics 4.99
Atlantic City 3.50
Author Author* 4.99
Avalanche Express 6.99
Back Roads 4.99
Baltimore Bullet 4.99
Band Wagon* 9.99
Bandalero 4.99
Barbarosa 4.99
Barry Manilow* 6.99
Beach Boys: An American Band* 19.99
Bedazzled 6.99
Being There 9.99
Big Country — Live 4.99
Big Red One 4.99
Black Marble* 11.99
Black Sabbath — Black & Blue 9.99
Blame It On Rio 19.99
Blow Out* 6.99
Blue Max (The) 9.99
Blue Peter Makes Body Music 4.99
Boston Strangler 4.99
Bothams Ashes* 5.35
Boy Named Charlie Brown 4.99
Boys In Blue 6.99
Breaking Away 6.99
Breathless 6.99
Brubaker 6.99

Camel 9.99
Capricorn 1 4.50
Captain Future Vol 1+2* 2.65
Captain Scarlet V Mysterions* 4.50
Carbon Copy 3.85
Care Bears — The Movie* 19.95
Carnal Knowledge 6.99
Cat On A Hot Tin Roof 4.99
Catherine Wheel 9.99
Cats Eye 19.95
Champ 9.99
Champions 6.99
Chariots Of Fire 15.99
Charles Aznavour 6.99
Che 4.99
Children Of Rage 4.99
Children Of The Corn 19.99
Chosen 6.99
Chris Barber Band 9.99
City Of Fire 4.99
Class 6.99
Class Reunion 6.99
Cliff Richard And Shadows 9.99
Cliff Richard — Video Conn 9.99
Col. Culpepers Flying Circus 11.99
Coming Out Of The Ice 4.99
Cool Cats 4.99
Cosi Fan Tutte 23.99
Culpepper Cattle Co* 4.99
Damnation Alley 6.99
Danger Mouse 5.35
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Daniel Barenboim No. 17 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 14 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 07 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 23 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 29 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 03 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 26 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 04 9.99
Daniel Barenboim No. 01 9.99
Dave Mason — Live 7.65
David Bowie — Love You Till 9.99
David Essex — Live Albert Hall 4.99
Day Of The Dolphin 6.99
Deadly Blessing 6.99
Death Hunt 6.99
Delia Smith Home Baking 4.99

Der Fledermaus 23.99
Der Rosenkavalier 24.95
Dexy's Midnight Runners 9.99
Dio — Live In Concert 9.99
Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry 6.99
Don McLean 4.99
Donna Summer 9.99
Double Play 6.99
Dr Copelius 3.15
Dr Who — Brain Of Dr Morbius 9.99
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Duchess & Dirtwater Fox 4.99
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Duran Duran/Sing Blue Silver 9.99
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Electric Horseman 11.99
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Elton John: Nighttime Concert 14.99
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Kids Are Alright — The Who 4.99
Kingston Trio 12.50
Kremlin Letters 4.99
La Fanciulla Del West 23.99
Lady Vanishes (1978) 9.99
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Last Of The Summer Wine* 6.99
Les Contes D'Hoffmann 23.99
Lets Spend Night Together* 19.99
Lianna 6.99
Liars Moon 4.99
Little Brown Burro & Tukiki 4.99
Little River Band 9.99
Lone Wolf McQuade 9.99
Loretta Lynn 4.99
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Goonies	Blade Runner
Groonies	Star Wars
Gremlins	Alien
Yentl	Krull
The Shining	On Her Majesty's Secret
Romancing The Stone	Service
9½ Weeks	Octopussy
Gandi	Goldfinger
Ghostbusters	Live And Let Die
Kramer Vs Kramer	Annie
Police Academy 1	Carmen
Poltergeist	Westside Story
The Colour Of Money	Mary Poppins
Bridge On The River Kwai	Fame
Lawrence Of Arabia	Rocky 1/2/3/4

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Shari Belafonte/Chris Nor-	About You
man — I Want To Be	Level 42 — It's Over
Needed	Level 42 — Hot Water
Big Country — In A Big	Caroline Loeb — C'est La
Country	Ouate
Bon Jovi — Dead Or Alive	Lio — Les Brunes Comp-
Bon Jovi — Never Say	tent Pas Pour Les Prunes
Goodbye	Love And Money — Candy-
Bucks Fizz — New Begin-	bar Express
ning	John C. Mellencamp — Pa-
Cameo — Candy	per In Fire
Camouflage — Strangers	Rush — The Big Money
Thoughts	Style Council — You're The
Cinderella — Somebody	Best Thing
Save Me	Tatjana — Chica Cubana
Cinderella — Nobody's Fool	Tears For Fears — Mad
Judy Cheeks — I Still Love	World
You	Tears For Fears — I
Robert Cray — Smokin'	Believe
Gun	Visage — Damned Don't
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Door	Angela Winbush — Angel
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A Woman	Yello — Oh Yeah
The Cure — Close To Me	
The Cure — Catch	
Curiosity Killed The Cat —	
Free	
Curiosity Killed The Cat —	
Down To Earth	
Jeremy Days — Inventive	
Mylene Farmer — Ainsi	
Soit Je	
Gwen Guthrie — Ain't	
Nothin' Goin' On But The	
Rent	
Johnny Hallyday — Que Je	
T'Aime	
Hipsway — Ask The Lord	
Hipsway — Honey Thief	
Kiss — Lick It Up	
Kiss — Tears Are Falling	
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Love	

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Of Heaven
Carly Simon — Coming
Round Again
Status Quo — Rockin'
Through The Years
10cc and Godley & Creme
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Tina Turner — Live In Rio
The Who — Who's Best
Various — Bands Of Gold
Dire Straits — Money For
Nothing
Tears For Fears — Every-
body Wants To Rule The
World
The Mission — Wasteland
Level 42 — Running In The
Family
Bananarama — Venus
Kool & The Gang — Stone
Love
Style Council — Tumbling
Down
Communards — Don't
Leave Me This Way
Cameo — Word Up
Pepsi & Shirly —
Heartache
Curiosity Killed The Cat —
Down To Earth
Swing Out Sister — Break-
out
The Cure — In Between
Days
Status Quo — The Wan-
derer
Elton John — I'm Still
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Curiosity Killed The Cat —
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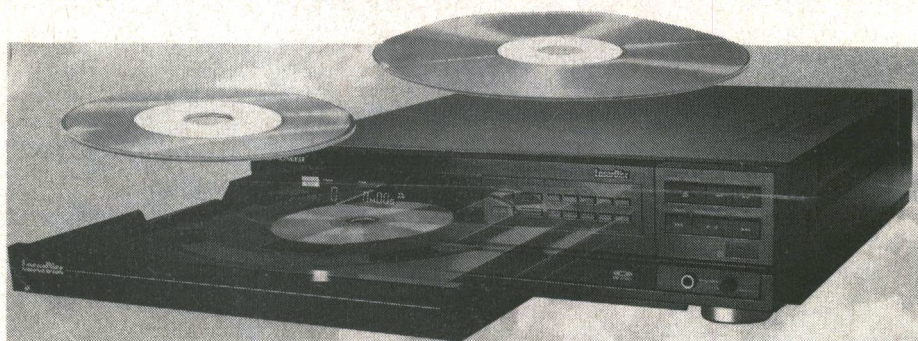
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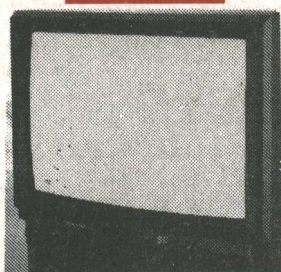
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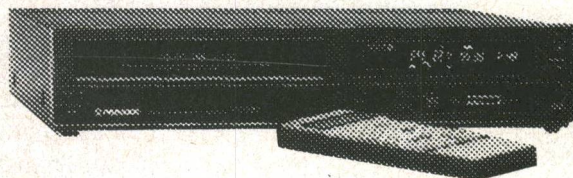
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